

St. James Lutheran Church
111 Peter Road
Southbury, CT 06488

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Southbury, CT 06488



Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ
500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly

Return Service Requested

February, 2019

THE EPISTLE

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22

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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT 06488

203.264.6446

www.stjamesct.org

email: stjames@snet.net

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘

THE ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL

Leslie Broch, Director

203.264.6448

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

GROW
with us

St. James Church is handicapped accessible and family friendly.

✠ ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

www.stjamesct.org email: stjames@snet.net

Pastor: The Reverend Scott D. Nessel

Church: 203.264.6446 / Cell: 203.592.0945

scottnessel@yahoo.com and csnessel@juno.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9am- 11am

Ministers: The People of St. James

Sunday School & Bible Study 9am
Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am
Summer Worship with Holy Communion (June, July, August) 9:30am
Coffee and Fellowship follows Sunday Worship; Please Sign-Up!!

CHURCH COUNCIL

<i>Parish Life Teams</i>	Linda Bedard	203.267.1066
	Judy Katzmark, <i>Council President</i>	203.264.4980
	Karen Lampiasi	203.586.1492
	Elizabeth Goehring	203.819.3135
<i>Parish Outreach Teams</i>	Tim Peterson, <i>Council Vice-President</i>	203.442.3705
	Jacque Matthew	203.233.9581
	Denise Kuo, <i>Council Secretary</i>	203.405.1137
	Kathy Bocci	203.695.5180
	Michaela Bedard, <i>Younger Person Rep.</i>	203.267.1066
	Richard Manville, <i>Treasurer</i>	203.232.8099

STAFF & MINISTRIES

<i>Genie Bisch</i>	<i>Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 3-5:30pm; Fri. 7:30-10:30am</i>	
<i>Leslie Broch</i>	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>	203.264.6448
<i>John Dressel</i>	<i>Director of Music</i>	203.758.8963
<i>Tammy Faulkner</i>	<i>Coordinator, Youth&Family Ministries</i>	203.267.6097
<i>Gail Fay</i>	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> \$\$	203.264.1362
<i>Erwin Weissmann</i>	<i>Financial Secretary</i> \$\$	203.264.7563

The Due Date for the March, 2019 issue of The Epistle is Feb. 15th. Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjames@snet.net) and Pastor Scott (scottnessel@yahoo.com). Thank You.

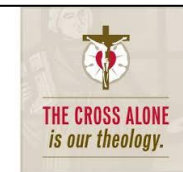
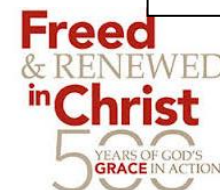
SERVING IN WORSHIP: February, 2019: THANK YOU!

	February 3 Epiphany 4	February 10 Epiphany 5
Assisting Minister	Lynn Morrison	Neil Johnson
Communion Assistant	Diane Iannini	Judy Katzmark
Lector	Gary Kline	Michaela Bedard
Cantor	Neil Johnson	Judy Katzmark
Acolyte	Ernie Danek	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli
Coffee Hour		
Counters	Neil J & Bob M	S & J Kelbley
	February 17 Epiphany 6	February 24 Epiphany 7
Assisting Minister	Liz Skinski	Lynn Morrison
Communion Assistant	Diane Iannini	Judy Katzmark
Lector	Lynn Morrison	Lucia Dressel
Cantor	Lucia Dressel	Karen Lampiasi
Acolyte	Emma Bensley	Evelyn Kuo
Usher	G.Kline/Sunday School	Jay Kuo
Coffee Hour		
Counters	Denise & Jay Kuo	S & J Kelbley

Our VISION Statement: We envision St. James Church as a growing, Christ- centered community entering new space: to reach out to all people on a journey of faith; to glorify God through inspired worship, intergenerational fellowship; and to addressing human needs in Jesus' name.



St. James Church
New England Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



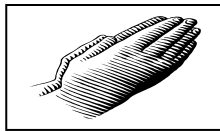


In Our Prayers

Karen Huber	Arlene Ascenzo	Kay West
Mildred Minervini	Ginny Pucillo	Ramona Cummings
Emileo Alvarado	Kelsey Gerber	Charlie Costello
Ryan DeRidder	Marilyn Balla	Katie D'Antonio
Peter Katzmark	Barb Gavin	Darice Peruch
Elsa Bowen	Sally Katzmark	Marti Bradley
Jane Breen	Richard Bowen	Diane Duffy
Fred Wuensch	Rebecca Scalera	Mickey Campanile
Richard Prisco	Vinnie Carbone	Sue Bormolini
Margaret Greenman	Lucy Dee	Karl Faulkner
Vicky Manville	Stanley Ulc	Sylvia Yazmer
Chris Best	Margaret Butts	Paul Hubina
Robert Kohler	Steffi Spath	Rose Danieli



Please also keep Matt Cheatham, Wilson Owens, Timothy Elwell, Seth Lash, Stephen Danek, and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers.



We also pray for All the Saints, especially Gary S. Kline, Anthony DeFelippis, Jack Lauf, Carmen Guecia, Laura Rowley, Kenneth Rowe, and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

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Food Collection for U.S. Coast Guard

Help show the Coast Guard that we support them and their families through the partial government shutdown by donating food items to be distributed through the Coast Guard food pantry in New Haven. There is a collection bin in the gathering area for food or a cash donation may be given to help purchase needed food items. Please see Karen Furr with questions.



A MESSAGE

FROM PASTOR

Dear friends and members of St. James Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord among us.
Amen.

Well, its February. How are those New Year's Resolutions playing out? Still trying to convince yourself, when filling out the date on a form or writing a check, that it is actually 2019? Has it sunk in yet?

Here is another reminder that the sands in the hourglass will never stop: In this month of February here at St. James Church we will have officially spent one full year in our new Worship Space.

Wow.

We've had a full year in our new Sanctuary. We've had a full year in a new fellowship hall. We also have new bathrooms, offices, kitchen(s), a new preschool set-up, and really a whole new layout.

Sometimes I (prayerfully) wonder if we have not spent a good chunk of this last year just trying to get used to everything, almost like having to remind ourselves what year it is when we write a check.

Well, good thing this anniversary comes to us during the Season of Epiphany—where God's love for us and presence in our lives guides us like a light, and surprises us when we are reminded of what was always there.

And then, before you know it, we'll have our second Lent in this new worship life, and our second Easter. There will be more hurdles down the road, more stuff to get used to, but God's presence will always be there for each of us and for our Life Together.

Happy Anniversary, I Love you.

Peace, Pastor Scott



**St. James Church will
begin Saturday Worship
at 5pm on
March 2, 2019!**

**Join us on Saturdays!
All Are Welcome!
Invite a friend!**

CONGRATS, ST JAMES!!



What do these two images have in common?

One represents our 3 year GROW campaign to raise funds for the new sanctuary and other campus improvements. The other was our theme image for the fall stewardship campaign, 'WHAT DID JESUS SAY' to prepare for the 2019 operations needs of St James.

The common element is that we've asked you to stretch, and dig a little deeper to help St James thrive. And you have responded beautifully! The GROW campaign has raised over \$500k in direct pledges, gifts, memorial, fundraisers, etc. And the Stewardship campaign has resulted in a projected 2019 giving level 20% higher than the 2018 ordinary income. With this result we will easily be able to cover both our ongoing program needs, as well as the mortgage payments on the remaining balance from our building project.

Yes, we still owe \$537k on that mortgage. But we have shown that the St James family can step up to accomplish big things for the glory of God, and for that we are thankful!!

We look forward to continued growth in 2019. Invite your friends to join our St James family in 2019 and...



from elca.org/advocacy

[Lutherans in the 116th Congress](#)

Posted on January 4, 2019 by ELCA Advocacy

by Andrew Fuller, Advocacy Coordinator

The start of the 116th Congress begins this week. As five new Lutheran lawmakers are sworn in to the U.S. House of Representatives, check out some of the Lutheran legislators who will serve our country in this new Congress.

Both incumbent ELCA Lutherans who ran for re-election to the U.S. Senate, Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., and Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, successfully won their respective races in November. They will rejoin their other Lutheran Senate colleagues when the new Congress starts in January 2019, including ELCA members Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; as well as [Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod](#) (WELS) member Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.; and The [Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod](#) (LCMS) member Cory Gardner, R-Colo.



Five new Lutheran-affiliated members will be joining the U.S. House of Representatives this year., Lutheran colleagues now include Rep. David Trone, D-Md.; Rep. Angie Craig, D-Minn.; Rep. Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D.; Rep. Xochitl Torres Small, D-N.M.; and LCMS member Rep. Jim Hagedorn, R-Minn. Two incumbent Lutheran members did not win their bids for re-election this year: self-described Lutheran member Rep. David Young, R-Iowa; and LCMS member Rep. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn.

The seven incumbent ELCA House of Representatives members who won re-election and will continue serving in the 116th Congress include Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.; Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif.; Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine; Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn.; Rep. Lloyd Smucker, R-Pa.; Rep. John Carter, R-Texas; and Rep. Denny Heck, D-Wash. Re-elected LCMS representatives include Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill.; Rep. Larry Bucshon, R-Ind.; and Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Wis. WELS member Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wis., also will rejoin the House. Other self-described Lutherans re-elected to the House are Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich.; and Rep. Donald Norcross, D-N.J.

Special Mention:

Four Lutheran members did not seek re-election last November, including ELCA Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa.; Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn.; Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn.; and LCMS member Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash. Among those not seeking re-election, former Congressman Tim Walz won the gubernatorial race in Minnesota and will be joining the state house at the start of 2019. We are grateful for their leadership in Congress and look forward to engaging with them in the future!

Get a jump start on building relationships with your lawmakers with ideas from an interfaith guide, [“Make Sure Your Member of Congress Knows You!”](#)



*Welcome to
Youth and Family
Ministries at
St. James Church!*



January brought our annual Christmas/Epiphany Pageant written by Lucia and John Dressel. We had children from our youngest Sunday school class to our confirmation class participating. How wonderful it was to see the older kids helping the younger ones and so this beautiful tradition continues.



On Friday January 18th we had a family movie night and watched the comedy Home Alone. There was pizza (thx Lyons family), popcorn, juice, water and hot cocoa (with marshmallows) for all. We

had a total of 25 people in attendance, 11 adults and 14 children. A great turnout for our first YAFM activity for 2019. Thanks to all for your help and participation with cleanup, and not to forget Tim Peterson for his video setup and most importantly his Popcorn maker!



*Welcome to
Youth and Family
Ministries at
St. James Church!*

Upcoming please save the dates!



**Join us for a Youth & Family
Ministries Tailgate Party
before the Superbowl
February 3, 2019, 3-5pm (ish)**

XXXXXX

**Join us on February 22 at 3:30pm -
4:30pm Starbucks for confirmation class
and above.**



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**Our Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper will
be March 5 @ 6pm.
Join Us!**

(Ash Wednesday is March 6)

Thanks for all the support!



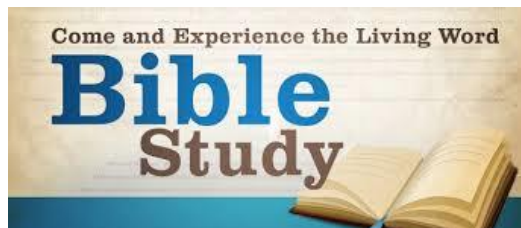


Dear St, James Family,

Thank you all so much for your thoughtful and generous gift cards. We are Blessed to be a part of such a loving and supportive church family.

*Lots and Love and Hugs,
The Johnson Family*

✂✂✂✂✂



**Join us for Bible Study
Sunday Mornings at 9am
All are Welcome!**



Many thanks for those of you who generously support the preschool scholarship fund. This year three separate families are benefiting from assistance. As it has been a busy year this will deplete the fund fairly significantly for next year. Please keep the preschool scholarship fund in your thoughts as you plan your yearly giving.



Look for upcoming information about a wonderful fundraiser in the month of February through Usborne Cards for a Cause. \$30 gets you 30 high quality cards (All Occasion, Holiday, Thanks and Blanks and Kids Birthday boxes are available). The preschool scholarship with receive 40% of all sales!

OUTREACH



Belated Thanks!!!

Many thanks for the generous outpouring of gently used coats, blankets, hats and mittens for all ages that were distributed to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House and Jericho Partnership in Danbury.



Kids Pajamas Needed

Women's shelters in New Haven are in need of new kids pajamas, all sizes. We will have a collection box in the gathering area until February 16th. Any questions contact Lauren Lyons.

Southbury Needy Fund Giving Tree

Your amazing generosity supplied gifts for 12 different children from 6 different families! Thanks to all who participated for the amazing outpouring of love for those in need in the community.



HomeFront Project (previously known as AmeriCares HomeFront) is a one-day home repair blitz that assists homeowners with repairs to their home. Last year Southbury Faith in Action marshalled the forces of almost 100 volunteers on

HomeFront Day. On May 4th of this year, the next HomeFront Day, they hope to have even more support for a homeowner physically or financially struggling to maintain their home. Please contact Lauren Lyons, 203-982-8415 lyonsden1133@yahoo.com for more information on HomeFront Day. If you would like to contribute financial support to the project please do so through the offering plate with the memo: HomeFront.

OUTREACH



Preschool Happenings!

The Preschool is a busy and vibrant place with 40 children currently enrolled over the 2 classes. Our open house will be coming up



soon. Please let families or friends you know in the area about our wonderful NYAEC accredited program. There are trifold flyers available with more detailed information. Contact Lauren Lyons, Tim Peterson or Pastor Scott for more details. We are always grateful for contributions to the preschool scholarship fund which this year is providing tuition assistance for 3 separate families. You can contribute through the offering plate with the memo: Preschool Scholarship. Look for upcoming information about a wonderful fundraiser in the month of February through Usbourne Cards for a Cause. \$30 gets you 30 high quality cards (All Occasion, Holiday, Thanks and Blanks and Kids Birthday boxes are available). The preschool scholarship with receive 40% of all sales!

Don't forget the rice shelf!! Many thanks to the following families for signing up to help with getting our (boxed) rice donations to the Southbury Food Bank (88 Main Street South, in the same complex as the Rathskeller Restaurant). There are a few open months – contact Lauren Lyons or add yourself to the schedule on the rice bin if you are able to help. Food Bank Stocking Hours: **2nd Friday of @ month from 12–1pm--2nd Saturday of @ month from 11:00-12:00 pm.** Call (203)721-0377 to make other arrangements.



February - Faulkner
March - Lyons
April -
May -
June -
July -



Bishop Hazelwood's recent Blog:

www.bishoponabike.com

The Wall has Already been Built

So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city (of Jericho). [Joshua 6:20]

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace. [Ephesians 2:13-15]



St. Paul provides a different perspective on walls than the one we have been hearing about in the last few weeks. Or shall I say years? St. Paul is articulating one of the visions of the faith of Jesus – namely the tearing down of what

divides us.

We are in a time of great division. We now define ourselves by what we are against, and sadly, we are more eager to find that it is our neighbor, our fellow pew sitter, our co-worker whom we oppose. In many ways, the wall has already been built.

However, like Jericho, the walls can come down...at least for New England Lutherans.

First, let's reclaim and recall our identity as immigrants. In recent years, I have celebrated church anniversaries throughout our New England Synod. Several of them were 125th anniversaries. Why so many, 125 year events? In the 1880s & '90s, there was significant immigration from the Southern region of Sweden, due in large part to a multi-year drought. Farmers, lumberjacks and merchants left there and came to the United States where they established churches, schools, colleges, and hospitals. These anniversaries are but one of hundreds of reminders that we are an immigrant church.

Second, let's fully embrace our companion relationships with our two Global churches. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land, as well as the Lutheran Church in Honduras. They are our partners in ministry. We have people in these churches who need our prayers, our support, and our advocacy. Each of them struggles in different ways and in circumstances that would make many of us shocked, outraged and disgusted.

In February, I along with a dozen people from our synod will travel to Honduras for a week-long mission trip. We are going there to do light construction on a Lutheran church, provide resources so children can attend school and be with them as the hands & feet of Jesus engaged in ministry together. We are also going to visit this country because it is at the epicenter of an ongoing debate about immigration in our own country.

The United States is currently in the middle of a partial government shutdown that has impacted hundreds of thousands of federal workers, and is potentially having a negative impact on the US economy. The primary reason given for this shutdown is over the President of the United States desire for funding for a border wall. In addition, for several years we have heard this President make numerous statements disparaging our fellow human beings, fellow people of the faith and all of them children of God.

This leads me to our third way forward in bringing down the wall that divides us and pits us against one another. We need to reclaim a Christian ethic of civil discourse. We also need to recover that simple, but increasingly challenging call to be decent and kind people.

(continued...)

www.bishoponabike.com The Wall has Already been Built
(continued)

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Martin Luther King Jr.

This does not mean that we are to lack clarity of purpose or strength of our convictions. I believe one can be kind and decent, yet still forceful.

When the chaos of this time recedes, and I believe it will, there will be a need for people to rebuild our connections to one another, to civic life & democracy as well as to the healing of the injustices that this wall is causing in our souls, in our country and around the world.

New England Lutherans are here because immigrants came here. We continue to be here in our ecumenical, inter-faith and global companionships. We find our strength in Jesus, who demonstrated convictions and actions that tore down the walls of hostility between us.

These are days of division – that cannot be denied. However, these are also days where together with Christ we can rebuild, not walls of division but bridges of understanding, kindness, and justice for all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop James Hazelwood



New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Living Lutheran



As we wrapped up 2018, we took a look at some of our top stories from the year. Below are *Living Lutheran's* five most-read articles from 2018. They're worth a read or a re-read! We look forward to bringing you more great stories this year.

1. [*Let the little children come: Pray-Ground welcomes kids into worship*](#)
2. [*The “e” word: Why does the ELCA have the word “evangelical” in its name?*](#)
3. [*Rules for church*](#)
4. [*Black Panther: Wakanda forever*](#)
5. *New name, same “servant of Christ”*

January: Pageants & Pizza Parties



January: Pageants & Pizza Parties





February



St. James Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Holy Communion is offered at all worship services</i>	Upper Room Thrift Shop at Church of the Epiphany: Tues & Sat 10 am– 2 pm		9:30-noon: SFB Mon & Fri and on 2 nd and 4 th Sat. 8:30-10:30 am	 Southbury Food Bank	1	2 10-2pm Upper Room
3 Epiphany 4 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir 3-5p Tailgate Party	4 8:00 AA	5 <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pNVC Bible Study	6 9:30-noon: SFB 8:00 AA	7 10:30am Worship @ LHS	8	9 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
10 Epiphany 5 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	11 7p Parish Support 8:00 AA	12 <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pNVC Bible Study 1pm Ladies Fell. 7pm Church Council	13 9:30-noon: SFB 10:30&11: Worship at Watermark 7p Worship&Music 8:00 AA	14 12noon: Woodbury Clergy 	15 9:30-noon: SFB <i>March Epistle Contributions are due</i>	16 10-2pm Upper Room
17 Epiphany 6 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	18 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 8:00 AA	19 <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pNVC Bible Study	20 9:30-noon: SFB 8:00 AA	21 10:30 SBY Clergy	22 9:30-noon: SFB 3:30 Youth & families @ Starbucks	23 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
24 Epiphany 7 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	25 8:00 AA	26 <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pNVC Bible Study 7pm PreSchool Board	27 9:30-noon: SFB 8:00 AA	28	